

This is an official
DHEC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
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**Coordination of South Carolina Hospital and Healthcare
resources to Support the Response to Hurricane Katrina**

Background Information

DHEC coordinates health and medical services under the state's emergency operations plan. Requests for help by our sister states come from the Emergency Management Agencies in those states to our State Emergency Management Division. Under the inter-state agreement, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), South Carolina responds to these requests along with other participating states. Requests have already been issued for a variety of medical assistance needs.

In addition, the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) has been activated with some of our in-State NDMS Hospitals expressing an interest in supporting operations.

Request for Coordination

Coordination of request for resources, staff and additional support from South Carolina hospitals will be coordinated via the South Carolina Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Support Function-8 (Health and Medical).

Requests received by healthcare facilities from external State or Federal entities should be coordinated via ESF-8 (Health and Medical) to ensure appropriate utilization of resources.

Therefore, contact the ESF-8 desk at the State EOC at the following number to receive additional information and to coordinate utilization of resources:

**ESF-8 (Health and Medical) contact number
803-737-8508**

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert	conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory	provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.